



STATE OF IOWA YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL 2022-23 PRIORITY AREAS

In the Fall of 2022, SIYAC members surveyed and interviewed nearly 1,000 youth to identify the most prominent issues facing Iowa youth today. From that research, SIYAC identified five priority areas and actions to address them: Agriculture and Environment, Education, Equity, Health and Service.

> Agriculture and Environment (A&E)



Water Protections Position Statement: Implement greater restrictions for application rates of fertilizer, especially as a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) waste disposal and redistribution method due to the detrimental effects on Iowa's water quality.

> Education



Consent-Based Education Position Statement: Iowa Code 279.50 "Human Growth and Development Instruction" should be modified to mandate the inclusion of age-appropriate progression in refusal skills training, reporting, and anatomy in Iowa's K-12 sexual education curriculum.

> Equity



What's Not Clicking Podcast: Increasing public awareness on issues and topics related to equity through the "What's Not Clicking" podcast.

Representation on Boards and Commissions: Representing different experiences of youth on multiple state-level boards and commissions.

> Health



Period Products in Schools Position Statement: Period products should be provided in one-half of the bathrooms of all public schools with grades 6-12 to improve the health and safety of students, while receiving their education in Iowa public schools



Mental Health Excused School Absences Position Statement: Allowing three (3) excused absences for mental and behavioral illness for any school-aged minor attending primary or secondary public education to improve the health and safety of students.

School Collaboration: Working with schools and mental health organizations to improve mental health in schools.

> Service



Volunteer Iowa Partnership: Collaborating with Volunteer Iowa to address and barriers to and increase opportunities for youth service-learning in Iowa.

Service Projects: Completing both a statewide group service project and individual service projects across the state.

The State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council (SIYAC) was created by Iowa Code §216A.140(8) under the Department of Human Rights "to foster communication among a group of engaged youth and the governor, general assembly, and state and local policymakers regarding programs, policies, and practices affecting youth and families; and to advocate for youth on important issues affecting youth". SIYAC focuses on service and volunteering, along with creating opportunities for youth to get involved in their communities. We encourage you to reach out for a youth perspective. **For more information, please contact Kayla Powell:** kayla.powell@iowa.gov or (515)343-6412.

